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FI$Cal Focus

FI$CAL: TRANSPARENCY. ACCURACY. INTEGRITY.

DEPARTMENTAL READINESS SHAPING UP...

Departments going live in Wave 1 have been attending Business Process Workshops (BPWs). These workshops are focused on explaining how the FI$Cal System will support the to-be processes upon go live. BPWs have been conducted for: Accounts Payable, Asset Management, Billing/Accounts Receivable, Cash Management/Treasury, General Ledger, Office Revolving Fund, Project Costing, Purchasing, and State Controller's Office Claim Audit. Budgeting BPWs will be conducted in November. In each session, FI$Cal Project Subject Matter Experts have walked through the process steps for each module area. These sessions have introduced the concept of end user roles that will be needed to transact in FI$Cal. These sessions have also provided departments a first opportunity to determine the impact of the new business process to their internal operation.

As the next step to Business Process Workshops, departments will be attending Role Mapping Workshops. These workshops are focused on explaining the available end user roles in the FI$Cal System. System roles will be explained in detail. The purpose of role mapping workshops is to provide departments the information necessary to decide who in their department will have end user roles in FI$Cal. Departments will complete a role mapping worksheet that will detail who has what role in FI$Cal. Departments will test the roles in February to ensure they are correct on Day 1 of go live.

FI$Cal recognizes that working through the details of business process impacts, role assignments, configuration, and interface/conversions is a complex endeavor for departments, and FI$Cal is committed to being a partner to our departments. To that end, FI$Cal will be hosting on-site support labs for departments to bring in their questions regarding business processes and role mapping, as well as configuration and Interface/Conversion support. Support Labs will be hosted at FI$Cal, 2000 Evergreen Street, so that we can bring in the Business Team experts needed to support the departments. A detailed schedule of support labs will be sent to each department's liaison. FI$Cal continues to reach out to departments through readiness touchpoint meetings on a regular basis. We are here to help. If you are a Wave 1 department and need additional assistance, please let your readiness coordinator know.

OCTOBER FORUM HELD!

Thank you for your participation in the October FI$Cal Forum. There were 235 attendees representing 62 departments in attendance. If you were not able to attend, but would like to view the material presented at the forum, you can find it on our website or by clicking here. Included in the presentation are some great tips for future waves from Brenda Fleming, Chief Information Officer of the California State Board of Equalization.

PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE

A Message From FI$Cal Project Leadership

When my middle daughter, Bethany, was in Kindergarten, they had a Career Day. Each student stood in front of the room and shared with the class what their parents did, and what they wanted to be when they grew up. Bethany proudly declared, "My Mom was a teacher, and my Dad designs silverware for the government!"

Even today, my friends and family, and possibly yours, may not really understand what we do every day here at FI$Cal. Frankly, it can be hard to explain. One holiday when we were traveling back to Virginia to see family, the topic came up again. Our kids are much older now, and I thought I could be a bit more specific with my answer. We were waiting to board our flight, so I thought I'd use our airplane to illustrate the point.

> *"This is a very exciting milestone, yet we still have plenty to do before FI$Cal is ready to fly."*

"Look at our airplane," I said. "How did it get there?" "Delta bought it," said Sydney. Ok, I had some work to do, I thought. "How was it made?" "Someone built it," Bethany said. Bingo! We then proceeded to talk about how the airplane was built.

First, the airplane was designed. The airplane would be designed to specific specifications, like how far it could travel, how many passengers it held, etc. Then, we talked about the airplane being built. The manufacture of the plane needed to follow a logical sequence, so things would happen in the right order.

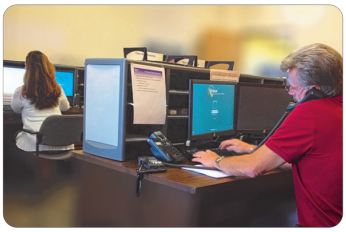
I asked the kids, "Would you want to fly on that plane as soon as it rolled off the assembly line?" "No way." They sensed a trick question, and they were correct. Whether an airplane or FI$Cal, built means only about 2/3 done. Airplanes go through extensive testing before they are deemed air worthy. First, they test everything on the ground. Even after they complete their ground testing of all of the onboard systems, they then perform extensive flight testing before the plane is deployed and the first passengers are allowed onboard. The illustration seemed helpful, as Sydney could immediate correlate our phase of FI$Cal to the airline manufacturing process.

We're about to begin our ground testing for FI$Cal (Functional Test, etc.). This is a very exciting milestone, yet we still have plenty to do before FI$Cal is ready to fly. We need to get through lots of ground and flight testing (i.e. UAT) before FI$Cal will be ready to take on passengers. We'll hit some turbulence along the way, but we'll come through the other side next July telling our end users, "Welcome aboard!"

Paul Lavery is the Accenture Project Manager on the FI$Cal Project

ATTENTION FI$CAL USERS

If you are having trouble navigating transactions in the FI$Cal System, did you know that help is just a click away? The help link located in the top right corner of the FI$Cal application provides immediate access to User Productivity Kits (UPKs) and Job Aids with step-by-step instructions to walk you through transactions. You can also open and edit the Job Aids in Microsoft Word to customize as needed. If you're still stuck, have you contacted your Super User? The Super User within your own department can offer useful tips and provide helpful information on where to find specific training. If that does not meet your needs, the FI$Cal Service Center (FSC) is here to help. The FSC is staffed by subject matter experts who can walk you through transactions. Email the FSC at support@fiscal.ca.gov or give them a call at (855) FISCAL0 (347-2250). If you need refresher training, be sure to visit the FI$Cal Training Academy.



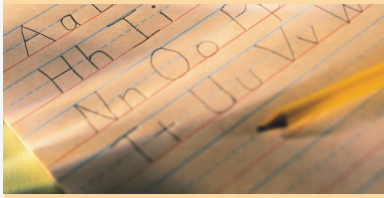
FI$Cal: Financial Information System for California

FI$CAL: TRANSPARENCY. ACCURACY. INTEGRITY.

Any questions, please contact us at: fiscal.cmo@fiscal.ca.gov

GLOSSARY

This section features acronyms or definitions for the FI$Cal Project. For a list of additional terms, please visit our website at www.fiscal.ca.gov.



Business Process Workshops (BPWs): Sessions delivered to departments on the functionality being implemented for a specific wave. BPWs help departments build an understanding of the new processes at the process level and an understanding of how their department will be affected. Departments can then assess changes and impacts at the department level.

Configuration: Process of incorporating State of California-specific values into FI$Cal for departments to use when performing transactions.

End Users: Individuals who will use or be impacted by FI$Cal.

Functional Test: Testing software based on its functional requirements to ensure that the program works the way it was intended.

Role Mapping Workshops: Role mapping is the process of mapping users to the appropriate FI$Cal end user roles required to complete their daily work activities with FI$Cal. The Workshop is to review the FI$Cal end user roles in detail and discuss the role mapping activity.

To-Be Processes: The new or future business processes being designed, developed and implemented for the State as part of the FI$Cal solution.

User Acceptance Testing (UAT): A testing process to confirm that a system meets mutually agreed-upon requirements.